

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0230

LIMDIS

JCRC FOR COL. LUTHER C. VAUGHN FROM TEARE

BANGKOK FOR CRO AND TWINING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, ACOM, VS, US

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MARINE REMAINS FROM SAIGON

REF: STATE 005376 (091516Z JAN 76)

1. DARRYL NYUN HAN, UNHCR REP IN HANOI, SENT ME BRIEF NOTE DATED JANUARY 28 WITH HIS DEPUTY HENRI ZENGER, WHO ARRIVED VIENTIANE SAME DATE AND ADDED A LITTLE AMPLIFICATION. FROM NOTE AND FROM WHAT ZENGER SAYS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON HAVE TURNED UP TWO SETS OF REMAINS WHICH THEY SUSPECT ARE THOSE OF THE TWO MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, JUDGE AND MACMAHON, KILLED AT DAO/SAIGON ON APRIL 29, 1975. HOWEVER, VIETNAMESE "WISH TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ERROR," I.E., WANT TO BE RELATIVELY CERTAIN OF IDENTIFICATION THEMSELVES SO THAT THEY DO NOT MISREPRESENT REMAINS IN TURNING THEM OVER TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES. ONE SET OF REMAINS IS EVIDENTLY NEGROID, AND ZENGER THINKS VIETNAMESE BELIEVE

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THESE REMAINS MAY BE JUDGE'S. (ZENGER BELIEVES WE WILL

GET THESE PARTICULAR REMAINS IN ANY EVENT, BUT ONLY WHEN VIETNAMESE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE THOSE OF THE TWO MARINES.) ZENGER ADDS THAT THIS APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THOSE INSTANCES IN WHICH VIETNAMESE HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO ACT AND NOW WANT TO MOVE QUICKLY.

2. ACCORDINGLY, HAN ASKS THAT YOU SEND "JCRC FILES" -- "WITH WHATEVER MATERIAL HE (VAUGHN) THINKS PERTINENT" -- ON JUDGE AND MACMAHON TO HIM SOONEST. HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT FILES BE SENT BY REGULAR UNCLASSIFIED POUCH FROM BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE JANUARY 30 SO THAT ZENGER CAN CARRY THEM BACK TO HANOI WHEN HE RETURNS BY AEROFLOT, WHICH DEPARTS VIENTIANE EARLY MORNING JANUARY 31. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHAT DOCUMENTS (PRESUMABLY PHOTOCOPIES) TO INCLUDE BUT SUGGEST AT MINIMUM DENTAL RECORDS, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS, AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD BE OF USE IN ESTABLISHING IDENTITIES. FILES SHOULD BE MARKED FOR MY ATTENTION AND DELIVERED TO EMBASSY BANGKOK IN TIME TO MAKE JANUARY 30 POUCH; THIS PRESUMABLY MEANS BY LATE JANUARY 29 OR OPENING OF BUSINESS JANUARY 30. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR ABILITY TO MEET THIS REQUEST. IF DOCUMENTS NOT AVAILABLE, CANNOT BE RELEASED, OR CANNOT BE SENT HERE ON JANUARY 30, PLEASE REPLY AT LEAST ON QUESTION OF RACE RE: JUDGE/MACMAHON.

3. FOR CRO BANGKOK: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HOLDING OPEN A POUCH TO ACCOMMODATE FILES FROM JCRC; POUCHING MATERIAL ON TO VIENTIANE; AND PARTICULARLY MAKING CERTAIN THAT THAI AIRWAYS ACTUALLY CARRIES POUCH ABOARD ITS FLIGHT 525 ON JANUARY 30. (ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS RECENTLY -- JANUARY 19 AND 21 -- THAI AIRWAYS BUMPED UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES FOR VIENTIANE.)

4. FOR TWINING: ACCORDING TO ZENGER, HAN WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE LATEST LISTING OF AMCITS KNOWN/BELIEVED STILL TO BE IN SAIGON; THIS DESPITE FACT HE TOLD ME JANUARY 20 THAT HE HAD UPDATED HIS LIST FROM YOURS DURING ONE OF HIS RECENT TRANSITS OF BANGKOK. IN ADDITION, ZENGER SUGGEST YOU SEND HAN A COPY OF LIST EACH TIME YOU UPDATE IT FROM NOW ON. WE CAN FORWARD LISTS TO HAN THROUGH UNHCR/VIENTIANE.
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